

Snake Creek candidate for bobsled, luge runs

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HEBER CITY — Wasatch State Park property in Snake Creek Canyon is once again a likely candidate for the 1998 Olympic bobsled and luge runs, according to Wasatch County Commissioner Pete Coleman, a member of the Salt Lake City Bid Committee for the Olympic Winter Games.

Although he had proposed Snake Creek when Salt Lake first decided to bid for the Olympics, Park City appeared to be the leading contender for the luge and bobsled. But he

told the Wasatch County Council of Governments recently that Park City will probably be chosen for the downhill races and ski-jump competition and is losing interest in the other two events because of the possible impact on the community.

Along with Snake Creek, the committee is considering Bear Canyon for the bobsled and luge runs, near the Wasatch-Summit County line, east of Deer Valley, he said. A technical team will begin to evaluate the sites near the end of this month and all the sites must be identified by the end of July. The

committee prefers the sites are within 50 miles of Salt Lake City.

One reason the Snake Creek site has a good chance is that it is already government property. Permanent, year-round training facilities would be built for about \$23 million, but at no cost to the county. The only other bobsled and luge training facilities in the U.S. are at Lake Placid, which Coleman said is always booked.

He assured Midway Mayor Reed Bezzant that traffic and parking should not present a problem to Midway. He said most people would

be transported by shuttle buses and parking at the site would be minimal.

Commission Chairman Moroni Besendorfer added, "They would park around the county, in Heber, Charleston, Midway, wherever there's a place, then they'd be shuttled over there."

Heber City Mayor Scott Wright said those in charge of the Olympics "are very sensitive about what it's going to do to the environment. I think that permeates the whole Olympic Committee."